

II. AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

1. Replace the section entitled "Brief Description of the Drawings" on Page 4 / line 13--26 with the following replacement section:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

This invention is pointed out with particularity in the appended claims. Other features and benefits of the invention can be more clearly understood with reference to the specification and the accompanying drawings in which:

Figs. 1A-1B are schematic diagrams of cross-sections of the sequential processing reaction vessel of the present invention in a sealed (Fig. 1A) and open (Fig. 1B) position;

Fig. 2 is a schematic diagram of the laminated membrane filter assembly of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is a schematic diagram of the liquid spray attachment for the SPRV of the present invention;

Figs. 4A-4C are schematic diagrams of an SPRV carousel assembly (Fig. 4A), top plate (Fig. 4B) and bottom plate (Fig. 4C); and

~~Fig. 5 shows sequentially extracted elemental concentrations in treatment solutions 1 through 9 for two marine sediment samples.~~

Figs. 5A-5E show sequentially extracted elemental concentraions in treatment solution 1 through 9 for a Panama Basin sediment trap sample; and

Figs. 6A-6^E show sequentially extracted elemental concentraions in treatment solution 1 through 9 for a Southern Ocean deep ocean surface sediment sample.

2. Replace the paragraph on Page 6 / Line 13-23 with the following replacement paragraph:

A schematic of the SPRV 100 is provided in Figs. 1A and 1B. As shown in Fig. 1A, the SPRV 100 comprises a top valve 105, a top securing collar 110, a top cover 115, a top cover O-ring 120, an exterior jacket 125, an interior liner 130, a membrane filter 135, a filter support frit 140, a filter holder 145, a filter holder o-ring 150, a bottom securing ring 155, a bottom valve

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